

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 22, 2007. Claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 13, 14, 21, 23 and 24 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 11 and 21 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 21 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that the “printing control program” is functional descriptive material, since the program is not imparting functionality to a control unit or on a computer readable medium. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, Applicant has amended Claim 21 to clarify that it is directed to a computer program stored on a computer-readable storage medium. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1 to 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Published Appln. No. 2002/0113989 (Ferlitsch) in view of WO 2002-82362/ U.S. Published Appln. No. 2004-0187087 (Petz). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus having a generation function of generating print data to be transmitted to a printer. The apparatus includes a storage which saves document data to be converted to print together with print setting data; an entire print setting unit configured to set an entire color mode to the print setting data as a setting of the entire document data, wherein the entire color mode specifies whether color printing or monochrome printing is to be performed for the entire document data; a partial print setting unit configured to set a partial color mode to the

print setting data independently of the entire color mode as a setting of a predetermined unit of the document data, wherein the partial color mode specifies whether color printing or monochrome printing is to be performed for the predetermined unit of document data; and a print data generating unit configured to issue a color mode specifying instruction in accordance with the entire color mode and the partial color mode set for the print setting data and generate the print data. The print data generating unit applies the partial color mode to the predetermined unit of the document data for which the partial color mode is set and applies the entire color mode to the remaining portion of the document data for which the partial color mode is not set.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, namely Ferlitsch and Petz, considered either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the information processing apparatus of Claim 1. In particular, the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of an entire print setting unit, a partial print setting unit and a print data generating unit configured to issue a color mode specifying instruction in accordance with the entire color mode and the partial color mode set for the print setting data and generate the print data, wherein said print data generating unit applies the partial color mode to the predetermined unit of the document data for which the partial color mode is set and applies the entire color mode to the remaining portion of the document data for which the partial color mode is not set.

In contrast, Ferlitsch discloses systems for print-processor modified printing. According to Ferlitsch, print tasks are spooled in a spooler 22 and read out by the cluster print processor (CPP) 24. The CPP 24 modifies a print task file received from the spooler 22 so as to adapt to multiple printers according to print task modification commands 26. The print task file 20 typically comprises data describing text/graphics as well as data describing formatting, print

job characteristics, copy quantity and other information. The CPP 24 most commonly divides a print task into copies or portions of a print job according to printer speed, capability, availability, available capacity or other attributes of available printers.

In addition, according to paragraph 0067 of Ferlitsch, another CPP 118 (see Fig. 9) displays a cluster printing interface 120 to prompt a user to select cluster printing options or access static configuration data. The option may comprise copy splitting, job splitting, printing device selection or other options.

Furthermore, Petz discloses a system for generating an electronic document from a scanned image. The scanned image data is stored in a storage as the first group that is provided page by page and the second group of overlay image data that is associated with at least one page in the first group of image data. As shown in Fig 6b of Petz, the image data is grouped in units of chapter and sub-chapter, and the overlay image data is associated with a group or a page. A user can define batch processing for a selected range, for example, a chapter or a sub-chapter. (See Fig. 12 of Petz). Petz shows removal of image specks, automatic numbering of pages, automatic centering on the page, an extending function and a rotation function as examples of batch processing. Moreover, according to Claim 8, at least one attribute including color is associated with the group of image data and the group of image data is processed with a selected processing process (batch, macro).

However, the present invention includes a print data generation unit that applies the partial color mode to the predetermined unit of the document data for which the partial color mode is set and applies the entire color mode to the remaining portion of the document data for which the partial color mode is not set. Accordingly, a mixture of pages to be printed in the color

mod and pages to be printed in the monochrome mode in a document is permitted by virtue of such a feature.

In contrast, Petz discloses that pages contained in a document are grouped. Once grouped, selected batch processing can be applied to the group of pages in a document and attributes associated with the document may contain color attribute. However, Petz fails to disclose or suggest a range within the group to which the color attribute is applied. Petz also fails to disclose or suggest an entire color mode that is applied to an entire document or a partial color mode that is applied to a part of the document.

Finally, Ferlitsch merely discloses conversion of a print job to be processed by a printer into print jobs to be printed by multiple printers. However, Ferlitsch fails to disclose or suggest either a color mode nor a range to which the color mode is applied.

In light of the deficiencies of Ferlitsch and Petz as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 11 and 21 are directed to a method and a program stored on a computer-readable storage medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 11 and 21 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-3939.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Frank Cire #42,419/
Frank L. Cire
Attorney for Applicant

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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